

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAKAR 00208 101155Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 ARA-10 /075 W
-----105250 101158Z /20

P R 101122Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2333
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 0208

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, AO, PO, SG
SUBJECT: SENGHOR INITIATIVE ON ANGOLAN RECONCILIATION

REF: (A) STATE 4757, (B) LISBON 149, (C) 77 DAKAR 8447,
(D) 77 LISBON 9024, (E) 77 LISBON 6398

1. SUMMARY: SENEGAL'S RATIONALE FOR REFUSING RECOGNITION TO NETO REGIME IS THAT RECONCILIATION BETWEEN ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MUST BE ACHIEVED BEFORE POLITICAL SITUATION WILL BE SETTLED. SENGHOR'S PRINCIPAL LINKS ARE WITH UNITA BUT HE ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THAT HE HAD MET WITH PRIME MINISTER NASCIMENTO TWICE AND HOPED DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH NETO WOULD BE POSSIBLE SOON. WHILE UNITA WOULD CLEARLY BE HAPPY TO HAVE SENGHOR PLAYING A ROLE, HIS CREDIBILITY WITH MPLA CANNOT BE HIGH. BUT WHATEVER SENGHOR'S CAPACITY FOR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT, I AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL FOR ME TO SEEK HIS CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF ANGOLAN SITUATION AND INQUIRE IF HE SEES ANY WAY U.S. COULD HELP PROMOTE MPLA-UNITA RECONCILIATION. END SUMMARY.

2. SENGHOR'S PRIMARY RATIONALE FOR REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE NETO GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THAT CUBAN-IMPOSED DOMINATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAKAR 00208 101155Z

BY ONE OF THREE LIBERATION GROUPS COULD NOT PACIFY ANGOLA, AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION WOULD HAVE TO BE FORMED SOONER OR LATER THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MPLA AND FNLA-UNITA. THROUGH HIS ADVOCACY OF THIS PRINCIPLE AND HIS CLOSE TIES WITH UNITA, SENGHOR HAS HOPED TO BE IN A POSITION TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN UNITA AND MPLA AT THE RIGHT MOMENT.

3. SENEGALESE LEADER COMMENTED ON THIS STRATEGY AT SOME LENGTH IN DE. 23 JEUNE AFRIQUE INTERVIEW REPORTED REF C. HE SAID HE ONLY REPRACHED NETO "FOR NOT HAVING THE SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE." HOWEVER, HE SAID HE HAD MET ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER NASCIMENTO TWO TIMES AND HAD ASSURED HIM THAT SENEGAL'S ROLE WAS ALWAYS TO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE THREE MOVEMENTS. SENGHOR SAID THAT, ON LAST OCCASION, NASCIMENTO HAD ASKED, "ARE YOU READY TO INVITE ME TO SENEGAL," AND HE HAD REPLIED, "OF COURSE. AND IF I CAN HELP YOU, I WILL." SENGHOR SAID SENEGAL HAD ENGAGED INDIRECTLY IN DIALOGUE WITH NETO, "AND I THINK THAT, SOON, WE WILL BE ABLE TO ENGAGE IN A DIRECT DIALOGUE." HE INDICATED HE ALWAYS COUNSELLED UNITA TO REMAIN OPEN TO DIALOGUE, AND SAID HE HAD NOT LOST HOPE THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE IN THIS DIRECTION. SENGHOR REMARKED: "I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES WOULD NOT SEE A DIALOGUE BETWEEN SAVIMBI AND NETO IN A BAD LIGHT." HE WENT ON TO REITERATE HIS LONG-STANDING OPPOSITION TO CUBAN EXPEDITION IN ANGOLA "BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT POWERS EXTERNAL TO AFRICA MUST NOT INTERVENE TO SETTLE AN INTERNAL CONFLICT."

4. THERE IS NO DISPUTING EARNESTNESS OF SENGHOR'S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING RECONCILIATION BETWEEN MPLA AND UNITA (E.E., ENTRY OF UNITA INTO COMMON FRONT WITH MPLA).
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAKAR 00208 101155Z

THERE IS ALSO NO DOUBT THAT HIS RELATIONS WITH UNITA REMAIN EXTREMELY CLOSE. (WE NOTE THAT SENGHOR WAS AMONG "AFRICAN PROXIES" THROUGH WHOM UNITA FOREIGN SECRETARY JORGE SANGUMBA RECENTLY URGED THAT U.S. INITIATE EFFORT TO BRING TWO ANGOLAN SIDES TOGETHER - REF D). IT APPEARS TO US THAT MAJOR UNKNOWN IS WHETHER NETO WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO ROLE BY SAVIMBI-PARTISAN SENGHOR. PORTUGAL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SENGHOR ROLE AND TIMING OF ANY SUCH INITIATIVE IS ANOTHER QUESTIONMARK; ACCORDING TO REF E, SOARES INDICATED OCT. 31 HE HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM SENGHOR ON ANGOLA, BUT FELT ANY DIRECT MEDIATION EFFORT PREMATURE.

5. IT IS CLEAR FROM THE FOREGOING THAT SENGHOR HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A CONTINUOUS BUT SO FAR UNPRODUCTIVE INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE MPLA/UNITA RECONCILIATION FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS. WE HAVE NO CURRENT INFORMATION TO INDICATE WHETHER RUI MATEUS' COMMENTS REPORTED REFTEL B REFLECT AN IMMINENT NEW DEVELOPMENT OR MERELY SENGHOR'S CONTINUING PERSEVERANCE AND GOOD INTENTIONS. SENGHOR WAS IN TALKATIVE MOOD WHEN I SAW HIM JANUARY 6, BUT MENTIONED NOTHING ABOUT ANGOLA. WHATEVER MIGHT BE

GERMINATING RIGHT NOW, AND WHATEVER SENGHOR'S POTENTIAL
ROLE, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN WAKE OF JEUNE
AFRIQUE INTERVIEW FOR ME TO SEEK HIS FURTHER COMMENTS ON
CURRENT ANGOLAN SITUATION, ASCERTAIN HIS PERSONAL
INTENTIONS, AND INQUIRE IF HE SEES ANY WAY US COULD PROMOTE
MPLA-UNITA RECONCILIATION. WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE
REPEAT OF CABLE TRAFFICE AND ADDITOIONAL BACKGROUND
ON THIS SUBJECT.
COHEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAKAR00208
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0728
Format: TEL
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780182/aaaacrav.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 33ae6de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 4757, 78 LISBON 149, 77 DAKAR 8447, 77 LISBON 9024, 77 LISBON 6398
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3803144
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENGHOR INITIATIVE ON ANGOLAN RECONCILIATION
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, AO, PO, SG, (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD SEDAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/33ae6de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014